The South 40

Farmers may irrigate cropland

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

The drought of 1980 and the lack of adequate rainfall since has caused some farmers to consider irrigation.

The costs of developing a water supply, purchasing irrigation equipment and operating cost are major considerations. The crop to be irrigated, soil type, slope frequency of irrigation, value of crop and number of acres to be irrigated are further considerations that must be analyzed.

An economic feasibility study of irrigating corn on Cecil soil has recently been released. It take a look at various prices for corn using three systems: System I uses a large traveling gun on 100 acres. System II uses portable pipe with portable big guns. System III is a solid set with two portable guns on 10 acres.

If you are considering adding irrigation this year, you may wish to come by and ask for a copy of this study.

* * *

There are reports that with the increased use of nylon filament trimmers injury is occuring on young trees. Total girdling of young, thin bark trees can result very quickly from the careless use of this equipment.

* * *

There will be even more concern about use of MH-30 this growing season. EPA has issued on RPAR on MH, which is a threat of label cancellation.

Some sources will have labels asking that the grower be responsible in the application:

1. Do not make more than one application per season.
2. Do not harvest earlier than 7 days after application.
3. Should wash-off (rain) occur within 6 hours (with potassium MH or 12 hours with DEA MH), a single repeat application may be made.

* * *

Legumes planted this spring need to have an inoculant applied in most cases. The nitrogen fixation on legumes is the result of a close relationship or symbiosis between the plant and rhizobium bacteria.

The inoculant cost amounts to pennies while its value is measured in dollars. Legumes that fail to grow properly or have a yellow to light green color may not be properly inoculated. This is easily checked by digging (don't pull) some roots for examination. Properly inoculated roots will have clusters of nodules on the roots. When sliced the nodules will be pink, not white in color.

* * *

If you have a legume or grass stand that was seeded last fall and there is at least a 30 to 40% population with few weeds, the stand can be improved.

Use a grain drill or sod seeder to put in new seed. Use ½ to ¾ of a normal seeding rate.

Don't try to thicken up old stands. The probability of disease is too great. Seed, labor and machine time will probably be lost.

* * *

What will you do about cutworms in corn? Odds are against cutworms in most fields. Remember, cutworm problems are generally associated with: 1) late planting; 2) broadleaf weed growth; 3) reduced tillage, abundant crop residue on the surface; 4) poor soil drainage; 5) history of cutworm problems in the field. Several of these problems are inter-related.

If you are willing to check closely, fields with one or more of the characteristics outlined, you could probably rescue a field from an infestation. If you are unable to follow "risky" fields closely, then a preventive application may be made.

* * *

THE APPOMATTOX COUNTY Marketing and Distributive Education Clubs cleaned up at a District Leadership Conference held March 18 at River Ridge Mall. Local students won 12 of 36 trophies awarded at the conference, and there were 19 schools participating. The contests involved various fields of marketing. Three ACHS students - - Tim Webb, Amanda Gage, and Teresa Bass - - took first place trophies and will advance to the state competition in Norfolk. Shown above from ACHS with their trophies are (front, from left) Sheila Carrico, Tammy Highfil, Arylece Ferguson, and Amanda Gage; (back row, from left) Dennis Stratton, Leonard McCormick, Mike Shupe, J. R. Harvey, and Teresa Bass. Not shown in the photo are Carolyn Hamlett, Tim Webb, and Sharon Coleman.

Couple announce birth of son

Tollie and Mary Rich are proud to announce the birth of theis first child, a son, born on March 24, 1981 at 6:20 p.m. at the General Hospital of Virginia Beach. The baby was named Dustin Samuel West Rich, weighed 10 pounds, 1 oz., and was 21 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Doss, Jr. of Appomattox. Maternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Guill and Mrs. Daisy Doss, all of Appomattox.

Paternal grandparents are Mrs. Mary Singer of Swedesboro, New Jersey, and Mr. Tollie W. Rich, Sr. of San Antonio, Texas. Paternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Velma K. Jones of Bayois-La-Batre, Alabama.

Godparents are Miss Jayne Doss of Appomattox and Mr. Ralph Dempsey of Virginia Beach, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Rich reside at 2013 Seafarer Cove, Virginia Beach, Va.

William Garrett celebrates

Master William Garrett Rowland celebrated his first birthday Saturday with a party at his home in Virginia Beach.

Those present were his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Emmit F. Rowland of Arvada, Colorado, his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Garrett and his maternal great-grandmother, Mrs. Mary Garrett of Appomattox, his godparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Forant and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Rowland and his brother, Emmit Francis Rowland IV of Virginia Beach.

Party decorations included a huge choo-choo train cake and a little cake.

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Annual Westvaco jaunt

Woods tour set

Spring wildflowers, wild foods and forestry will be some of the topics covered on Westvaco Corporation's Wildflower/Woodlands Tours for area Garden Clubs and other interested persons. The day-long tours will be held on April 27, 29 and 30, on Westvaco's Buffalo Creek Nature Area in Bedford County.

Westvaco foresters and special guest leaders will guide walks through several different habitats. This will allow tour participants to see a variety of wildflowers, ferns and other vegetation. The participants will also see some forest management practices on this working forest. Lunch-time will bring a special treat. "Wild" foods, prepared from plants seen on the walks, will be served along with a traditional box lunch.

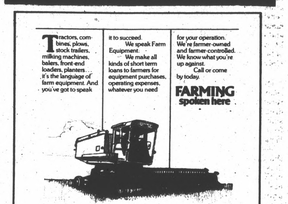
This will be the 4th year for the Wildflower/Woodlands tours. Last year tour participants located and identified over fifty wildflower species in bloom. More than seventy Garden Clubs from the Central Virginia area have been invited. Registration for participating in the tours is required by April 13.

For information on registration for the tours, write to Westvaco Wildflowers, P. O. Box WV, Appomattox, Virginia 24522.

Cassie Baldwin honored with birthday party

Cassie Baldwin was honored with a surprise birthday party on Wednesday evening, March 25, in the new fellowship hall of the Rocks Baptist Church. Approximately forty friends were present for the occasion, to enjoy the fellowship and refreshments of ice cream and cake.

Miss Baldwin who has been a country correspondent for the Times-Virginian for a little over 40 years is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Aurelious Baldwin (he was better known to his many friends as 'Bee') Baldwin and joined the Rocks Baptist Church at age 13. Miss Baldwin who taught school at the Martin Field School in the Pamplin-Evergreen area many years ago makes her home in Pamplin.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Flower show set

The Appomattox Garden Club's Spring Flower Show will be held this Saturday, April 4, at Memorial United Methodist Church on Court Street, Mrs. Edith Nash, show chairman, and Mrs. Anne Robinson, club president, cordially invite the public to view the exhibits from 3:00 till 9:00 p.m. Admission for adults is $1.00 and students 50 cents. "Spring Awakens" is the theme for the show this year. There will be a variety of arrangements ranging from small designs of less than 8 inches in size to church altar arrangements. One division of classes constitutes table settings. Another class features the use of birds in the arrangements.

Besides the Artistic Division, the Horticultural Division will be filled with varieties of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, flowering trees and shrubs, azaleas and camelias. Ribbons will be given in each of the 49 classes. The Educational Exhibit will feature birds in prints and statuary forms.

Note to Garden Club members, there are a few vacancies still available in the Artistic Division which need to be filled. Please call Mrs. Kitty Sears (352-5531) and make your reservations prior to Friday evening. All exhibits are to be placed in the church either Friday from 8-9 p.m., or Saturday morning from 8:30 till noon. Judging will begin at 1:00 p.m.

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Leader conference set for local FHA students

The Thirty-Sixth Annual State Leadership Conference of the Virginia Association, Future Homemakers of America, will be held April 2-4 at the Richmond Hyatt House. The purpose of the leadership conference is to provide help to FHA and HERO members and advisers in developing skills and increasing the quality of local chapter programs.

Cheryl Walton, Jane Guill, and Sharon Davis from the Appomattox Senior FHA Chapter will be among approximately 500 delegates representing 20,000 FHA and HERO members across the state at the conference. They will be accompanied by Betty Jo Smith, adviser to the FHA chapter at ACHS.

The theme for the conference this year is "FHA/HERO: The Opportunity Is Now." While attending the conference they will join delegates from over 450 Virginia FHA and HERO chapters in electing State Officers and in Program of Work Planning Sessions.

Mr. Tom Lough, former Olympic medal winner, will be the keynote speaker during the opening session Thursday evening. Dr. James Johnson, Director of the World Fellowship Ministry Foundation, will challenge delegates during the banquet. Entertainment on Friday evening will be presented by Triple Trio and Company from Harrisonburg High School.

Cheryl Walton serves as secretary of the Virginia Association, Future Homemakers of America and will be conducting workshops and presiding at sessions during the conference.

A Question of *Law*

Editor's Note: Following is one in a series of columns regarding the law which the Times-Virginian will provide as a public service to its readers each month. The monthly question-and-answer column is written by Albert Teich, Jr., professor of business law at Old Dominion University.

Question: I have been reading quite a bit in the paper recently concerning the recent drought and Norfolk's effort to sink wells and take more water from some of the local rivers. What is the law on this subject?

Answer: Your question hits the nail right on the head and illustrates the fact that the law in Virginia is not clear as to who has what rights in the water under the surface of the ground, and who has the right to take water from rivers and how much can be taken.

Virginia has been most fortunate, until recently, in that we have had, generally, a surplus of water. As such, we have not developed a detailed set of laws setting forth exactly how much water the owner of property can take from streams flowing over or adjacent to the property. Neither do we have precise laws setting forth how much water can be taken from wells, either deep or shallow.

In our more western states, we find that water has been so short from the beginning that water rights have been established by the various state governments. Each adjacent land owner, generally has the right to take a certain amount of water from a stream. That right can be sold to others. Some cities have been known to buy the water rights from farmers and return to the farmers the clear and pure water from the sewerage plants. This water is generally used for irrigation. However, I have seen it used for municipal swimming pools, it is so pure.

Other western states limit the pumping of water. As a matter of interest, many of those same western states limit the number of oil wells on the land and the amount of oil which can be pumped from those wells. This limitation acknowledges that when oil (and water) are under the ground, no one really has control of it. The old common law stated that while the water (or oil) was under a person's land, that person owned the oil or water. However, when it moved away, as it does, it was no longer the property of the former owner. It is also understood that when oil or water is pumped from the ground, it causes other oil or water to flow to the area where the water and oil was extracted. Excessive pumping can cause the water from surrounding areas to leave those areas and flow toward the pump. This, in turn, can have adverse effects upon the wells of neighboring land owners.

This is what the property owners are afraid of these days if Norfolk, or Virginia Beach, sink more and more wells and pump ever increasing amounts. The neighboring wells might, or will run dry.

Virginia would do well to carefully study the water laws of our western sister states, and then develop laws suited to our needs and be better prepared for the next time. In preparing the laws, we should always remember that the welfare of the entire state is involved. If one part of the state is in bad shape that can have adverse effects on other parts of the state. We are not only going to consider water, but the financial health of the state. If one large metropolitan area were to be crippled by the lack of water, the financial effect on the rest of the state would soon be felt. Tax revenues would be greatly reduced, welfare payments to unemployed would be a drain on the state treasury, tourism would decrease and their dollars spent in the rest of the state, while traveling to the beach would be reduced.

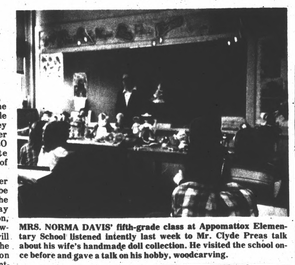
The localities should be able to get together and solve the problem. However, the General Assembly should really enact uniform laws which would bring order and justice to the water problem. This is needed for the long run well-being of the state.

Walker helps hostages

Staff Sgt. James E. Walker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel J. Walker of Pamplin, Va., participated in the return of the 52 former American hostages from Iran.

The service member was among many support and specialized personnel who took part in the former hostages' flight to freedom. This was after Algerian negotiators brought the Americans from Tehran to Algiers, Algeria.

Walker is an interior electrician at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.



MRS. NORMA DAVIS' fifth-grade class at Appomattox Elementary School listened intently last week to Mr. Clyde Press talk about his wife's handmade doll collection. He visited the school once before and gave a talk on his hobby, woodcarving.

Band boosters to meet

The Appomattox County High School Band Boosters will meet on Monday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the band room at the high school.

All band parents and interested adults are invited to attend.

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April Is Cancer Control Month-----

During this month volunteers of the Appomattox Unit of The American Cancer Society will be conducting a fund-raising campaign to support cancer education, research and service programs. Won't you help?

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